

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22 and 24-30 are pending, in which claims 2, 9, 16, and 23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 are currently amended. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action mailed August 28, 2006 rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 29 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Green et al.* (US 6,003,084) in view of *Perlman et al.* (US 5,805,818).

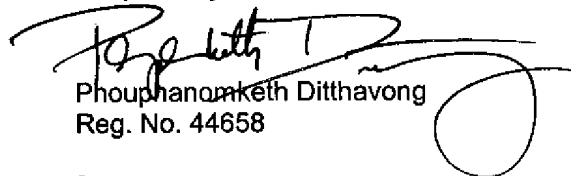
Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 2, 9, 16 and 23 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 to incorporate the features of allowable dependent claims 2, 9, 16 and 23, respectively. Additionally, claim 29 has been amended to include the allowable features of dependent claim 2.

In view of the claim amendment, the obviousness rejection is rendered moot.

Therefore, the present application overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (301) 601-7252 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Phouphanomketh Ditthavong
Reg. No. 44658

for

Craig L. Plastrik
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 41,254